



ATHERSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

1967

ATHERSTONE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

---oOo---

FOR THE YEAR

1967

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION, SOCIAL CONDITIONS
AND OCCUPATIONS

The Rural District of Atherstone lies in the northern part of the County of Warwick, almost in the centre in England. The northern and eastern boundaries of the District form part of the Leicestershire County Border; the Staffordshire border is on the west. Neighbouring Warwickshire local authorities are Nuneaton Borough and Meriden Rural District. Coventry is situated 15 miles to the south and Leicester and Birmingham are each 20 miles away, to east and west respectively.

The interests of Atherstone have always been agricultural, commercial and industrial. Coal mining and hat manufacturing are the principal industries, whilst there are also brick, pipe and tile works, engineering works, hosiery and footwear factories and other minor industries. There is a need for new industries, and splendid opportunities exist for such development.

Means of communication are good. Passing through the town are the main road known as Watling Street (A5), the main London to Crewe Railway line and the Coventry Canal. The main road is now carried round the town by a by-pass (opened December, 1963) and the railway line has been electrified.

Atherstone is of great antiquity. Indisputable evidence of Roman association has been discovered from time to time. Atherstone town was well established in the 9th century and it was entered in Domesday Book as Aderstone.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
at 31st December, 1967

Chairman:

Councillor E.Bond, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Mrs.G.M.Allard.

Councillors:

Mrs.E.M.Crook, Mrs.V.W.Ford, Mrs.A.H.Pearson, T.J.V.Bilby,
S.Chetwynd, W.Ebblewhite, C.B.Ford, J.P. (Ex-officio), E.Genders,
F.R.Greenway, P.Hastings, Rev. H.J.Hobbs, T.W.Hubbard, E.W.Mellor,
R.Mellor, T.H.Newborough, J.Nisbet, F.A.Paintin, H.S.Sales,
J.Sanders, J.P., A.E.Shaw, J.P., J.M.Smith, A.L.Standley,
B.E.Tunnicliffe.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

E. M. HUGHES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

S. B. ACTON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

R. A. MARGOSCHIS, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

P. HIBBERT, M.A.P.H.I.

H. M. BLACKSHAW, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Assistant:

MRS. J. CLAMP.

Student Public Health Inspectors:

E. A. ROUTLEDGE.

C. A. BOND.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Atherstone.

October, 1968.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Atherstone Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of the inhabitants of the Rural District of Atherstone for the year 1967, including the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The population of the Rural District continued to increase and the mid-year estimate obtained from the Registrar General's Department gave the population figure for the year as 35,210 compared with 34,400 for 1966, an increase of 810. The national increase, that is, the excess of births over deaths was 455. These figures suggest that the increase in population can be attributed in part to migration into the District.

During the year 777 births were registered, compared with 749 during the previous year. This gave a birth rate of 21.40 which was higher than the national average of 17.7.

Infants who died during the first year of life numbered 14, giving a mortality rate of 18, which compared favourably with the national rate of 18.3.

During the year the total number of deaths was 322, giving a rate of 11.52, which was slightly higher than the national average of 11.2. Once again there was an increase in the number of deaths notified due to carcinoma of the lung, when 15 cases occurred compared with 12 in 1966.

The notifications of infectious diseases numbered 381; of these 338 were attributed to measles. During the year a number of families were found to be infected with scabies and this coincided with a national increase in this infection. The cleansing of each case was supervised by nurses employed by Warwickshire County Council.

The number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register was 127.

The remainder of the report is self explanatory and there is nothing of note that I wish to draw to the attention of the Council.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support. Appreciation must also be expressed for the co-operation and assistance received from Mr. Acton, members of the Public Health Inspectorate and colleagues in other Departments. Also to Mrs. Jean Clamp who has typed and prepared this report.

E. M. HUGHES

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	34,574
Population, Census 1951	...	...	...	...	...	29,635
Population, Census 1961	...	...	...	...	...	32,577
Intercensal increase in population	...	...	...	...	...	2,942
Excess of males over females (at Census)...	...	...	...	...	...	579
Population (mid-year estimate)1967...	...	...	...	...	...	35,210
Number of inhabited house,1967 (Apl.1st,1967)	...	...	...	...	...	11,269
Density of population, i.e. number of persons per acre, 1967	...	...	...	...	...	0.98
Number of persons per dwelling, 1967	...	...	...	...	...	3.11
Rateable value of District, 1967 (Domestic)	...	...	...	...	...	£654,166
1967 (All premises)	...	...	...	...	...	£1,121,451
Sum represented by penny rate, 1967	...	...	...	...	...	£4,675

PARISH POPULATION, CENSUS 1961

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ansley	2,930	1,260	1,202	2,462
Atherstone	944	2,713	2,740	5,453
Austrey	2,123	154	145	299
Baddesley Ensor	1,156	956	868	1,824
Baxterley	901	212	210	422
Bentley	1,967	84	75	159
Caldecote	667	75	62	137
Dordon	2,155	1,668	1,573	3,241
Grendon	2,415	748	712	1,460
Hartshill	1,585	1,313	1,270	2,583
*Kingsbury	6,907	2,908	2,777	5,685
Mancetter	1,607	1,395	1,364	2,759
Merevale	890	38	50	88
Newton Regis... ..	1,340	208	194	402
Oldbury	611	37	45	82
Polesworth	4,110	2,146	2,095	4,241
Seckington	849	35	35	70
Shuttington	1,417	277	260	537
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Totals	34,574	16,227	15,677	31,904
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*Kingsbury Parish at Census comprised 1,830 dwellings in 8,092 acres. Annexed from Tamworth R.D.C. on 1st April, 1965, were 1,636 dwellings in 6,907 acres. Assessed population stated.

PARISH POPULATIONS

COMPARISON OF 1951 WITH 1961 CENSUS

Parish	Number Increased	Number Decreased
Ansley	375	-
Atherstone	-	372
Austrey	-	53
Baddesley Ensor	125	-
Baxterley	88	-
Bentley	-	25
Caldecote	16	-
Dordon	408	-
Grendon	-	131
Hartshill	-	159
Kingsbury	1,783	-
Mancetter	846	-
Merevale	-	133
Newton Regis	-	73
Oldbury	-	6
Polesworth	221	-
Seckington	-	1
Shuttrington	33	-
Totals	3,895	953

VITAL STATISTICS, 1967

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	382	395	777
Legitimate	362	376	738
Illegitimate	20	19	39
Birth Rate			22.06
Comparability Factor .			0.97
Corrected Birth Rate .			21.40
Still Births	8	9	17
Legitimate	8	8	16
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Deaths	183	139	322
Death Rate			9.15
Correction Factor ...			1.26
Corrected Death Rate .			11.52
Infant Deaths			
(0 weeks to 12 months) ...	8	6	14
Legitimate	8	6	14
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate ...			18
Neo-Natal Deaths			
(Under 1 month)	8	4	12
Legitimate	8	4	12
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Early Neo-Natal Deaths			
(Under 1 week)	8	3	11
Legitimate	8	3	11
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Perinatal Mortality Rate			
(Stillbirths & Deaths under			
1 week)			35
Maternal Mortality			
(Including abortion) ...			-

NUMBER OF DEATHS FOR THE YEAR, 1967

Cause of Death					Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	2	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	1	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	1	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	1	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	8	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	14	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	27	13
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	2	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	19	25
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	41	27
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	5	-
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	13	17
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	3	8
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	9
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	6	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	3	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	2	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	-	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	16	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	4	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	4	5
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	2	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	-	-
					—	—
					183	139
						<u>322</u>

BIRTHS

The number of registered live births for 1967 was 777 giving a crude birth rate of 22.06 per 1,000 population. The comparability factor is 0.97, making the corrected birth rate 21.40 per 1,000 population.

The birth rate for England and Wales in 1967 was 17.7 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS

The number of deaths registered during the year was 322, giving a crude death rate of 9.15 per 1,000 population. The factor for correction is 1.26 and it results in a standardised death rate of 11.52 per 1,000 population. The "correction factor," being above unity, indicates that Atherstone District has a younger, on average, population than the rest of the Country. The corrected death rate is designed to afford a means of comparing the healthiness of different districts by accounting for the irregularities of the distribution of the population as regards age and sex.

The 1967 death rate for England and Wales was 11.2 per 1,000 population.

The diseases and conditions giving rise to the majority of the deaths over the last five years are :-

Cause of Death	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Diseases of the heart and blood vessels	86	99	92	132	114
Cerebral Haemorrhage	41	38	47	75	44
Cancer	57	49	50	61	75
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	25	25	36	37	22
Violence, accidents and suicide	18	11	20	16	15

INFANT DEATHS

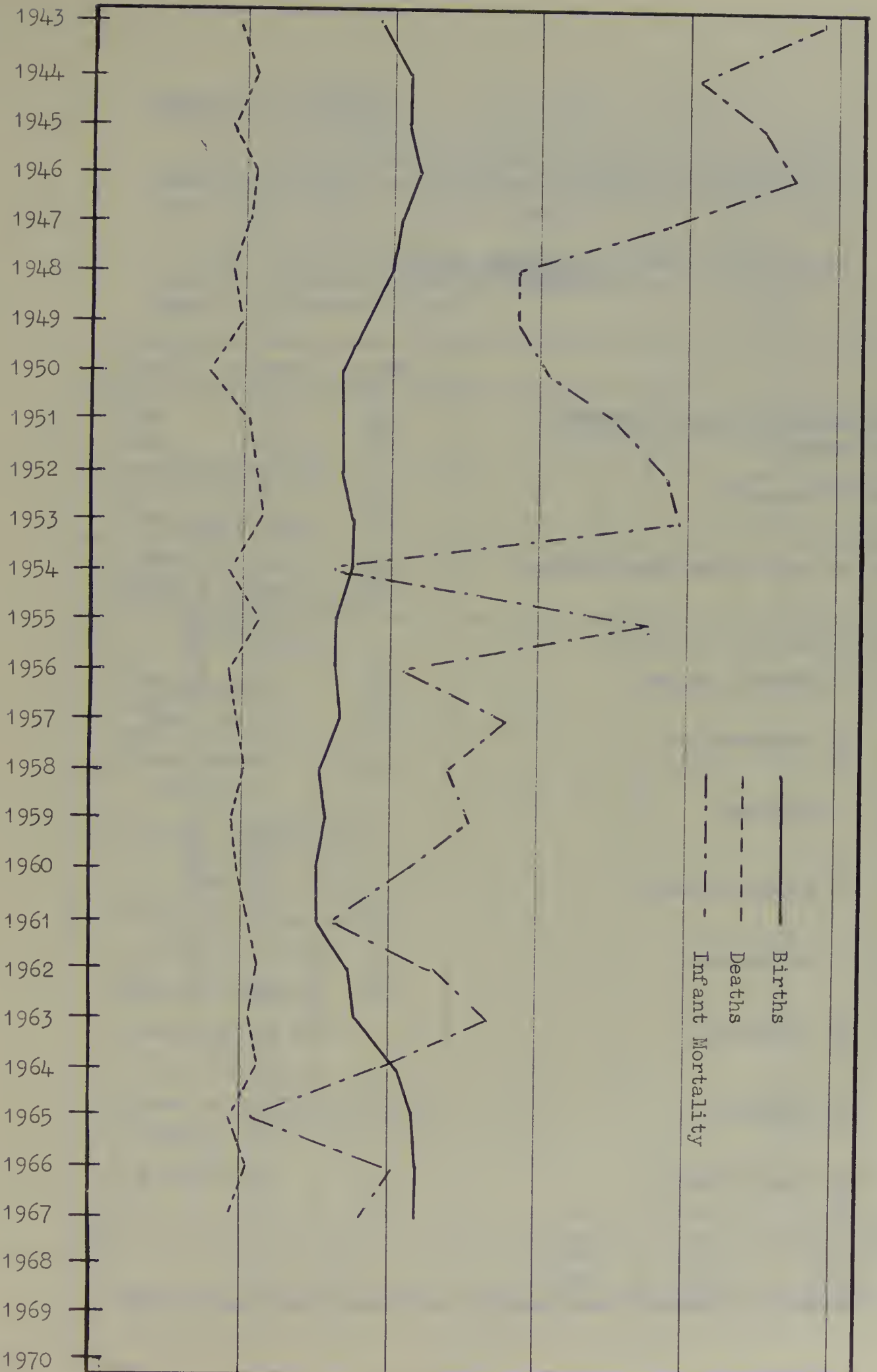
14 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred during 1967, 8 were males and 6 were females.

The infantile mortality rate was 18 per 1,000 related live births. The rate for England and Wales was 18.3, which was the lowest national rate ever recorded.

<u>BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY</u> <u>IN ATHERSTONE</u>			
Year	Average Five Years		
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1943 - 1947	20.8	10.3	44.4
1948 - 1952	17.5	9.9	32.1
1953 - 1957	16.7	10.1	28.2
1958 - 1962	15.7	10.3	21.9
1963 - 1967	20.6	10.1	18.8

ATHERSTONE

GRAPH SHOWING 25 YEARS OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES
PER 1,000 POPULATION AND INFANT MORTALITY PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS



INQUESTS, 1967

	Males	Females	Total
No. of sudden deaths reported to Coroner	35 (37)	21 (19)	56 (56)
No. of Inquests	7 (10)	2 (3)	9 (13)
No. of Post Mortem Examinations	34 (37)	20 (19)	54 (56)
Certified cause of death			
(a) Natural causes	29 (28)	19 (16)	48 (44)
(b) Misadventure	1 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)
(c) Suicide	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
(d) Found drowned	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
(e) Accidental	2 (8)	- (-)	2 (8)
(f) Stillborn	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
(g) Murdered	(-) (-)	(-) (1)	(-) (1)
(h) Open verdicts	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)

Figures in brackets show numbers and classifications in 1966.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The table on page 16 shows the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases which have occurred in Atherstone over the last ten years.

The following are the number of cases of infectious diseases notified by Medical Practitioners in the year ended 31st December, 1967.

	Males	Females	Total
Scarlet Fever	14	11	25
Whooping Cough	9	5	14
Measles	171	167	338
Acute Poliomyelitis			
Paralytic	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	2	2
Acute Encephalitis			
Infective	-	-	-
Post Infectious	1	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
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	196	185	381
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED 1958 - 1967

Disease	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Scarlet Fever	13	25	13	6	12	9	5	13	16	25
Whooping Cough	6	-	3	15	3	18	-	2	1	14
Measles	24	456	2	140	45	245	36	379	133	338
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Inf.	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	1
Dysentery	5	-	1	-	-	1	28	-	21	2
Optn. Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	13	20	17	11	4	8	6	1	1	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric or	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	6	-	10	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contracted abroad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indigenous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

TABLE I

Details	Males		Females		Total
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	
(a) Number of cases on Register at beginning of year	59	11	39	16	125
(b) Number of cases notified under Regulations of 1952 for first time in year	2	-	2	-	4
(c) Number of cases restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
(d) Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by normal notification	-	-	1	-	1
(e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year	2	-	1	-	3
(f) Number of cases remaining on Register at 31st December, 1967	59 (83)	11 (19)	41 (54)	16 (18)	127 (174)

The figures in brackets show the numbers of tuberculosis cases on the Register 10 years ago, when the population was only 24,630.

SUMMARY OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER
1948 - 1967

TABLE II

Year	Cases on Register			Notifications each Year			Deaths		
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total
1948	103	33	136	33	4	37	10	1	11
1949	117	34	151	26	5	31	6	2	8
1950	123	36	159	18	5	23	10	1	11
1951	132	40	172	30	8	38	7	3	10
1952	146	47	193	28	12	40	6	2	8
1953	160	50	210	24	8	32	4	1	5
1954	174	49	223	29	2	31	3	-	3
1955	158	45	203	18	5	23	2	-	2
1956	149	43	192	11	3	14	4	1	5
1957	132	37	174	10	1	11	1	-	1
1958	134	38	172	9	4	13	3	-	3
1959	128	28	156	13	1	14	2	-	2
1960	119	26	145	11	3	14	2	1	3
1961	114	25	139	12	-	12	-	-	-
1962	104	25	129	9	1	10	1	1	2
1963	108	25	133	11	2	13	3	-	3
1964	104	26	130	5	2	7	3	-	3
1965	103	26	129	4	-	4	1	-	1
1966	98	27	125	5	2	7	2	-	2
1967	100	27	127	5	-	5	3	-	3

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory situated at the Coventry and Warwick Hospital, Coventry, undertakes the bacteriological examination of samples of water, ice cream and food, also in connection with the investigation of infectious diseases.

Messrs. Bostock, Hill & Rigby, Public Analysts, Birmingham, are frequently employed for chemical analyses.

THE GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE

The General Practitioners Service is administered by the Warwickshire Executive Council; eight medical practitioners live in the district, but others living outside have extended their activities to cover parts of the district.

There are no general hospital services directly available within the district, but out-patient and in-patient facilities are available at the Nuneaton and Tamworth hospitals. Cases of infectious diseases are usually admitted to Whitley Hospital, Coventry, and a small percentage of cases requiring special treatment are admitted to Birmingham hospitals. The bed accommodation for Tuberculosis patients is largely provided for at Hertford Hill Sanatorium, near Warwick, but various other Sanatoria within the Birmingham Hospital Region are also used.

The Warwickshire County Council are responsible for the administration of the School Health Service, and for arrangements for Domiciliary Nursing, Domestic Helps, Vaccination and Immunisation, the care of Mothers and Young Children, the Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care, and the Ambulance Service as laid down in Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946. With the exception of the Ambulance Service, the day by day administration of these services is under the control of the Area Medical Officer, Rye Piece, Bedworth. The Ambulance Depot is at Watling Street, Dordon.

A General Purposes Clinic is situated in Long Street, Atherstone. Infant Welfare and School Clinics are held in and conducted in these premises and sessions are held at which the Speech Therapist, Dentist and Eye Specialist attend.

CLINICS HELD WITHIN THE RURAL DISTRICT

Long Street, Atherstone.	Infant Welfare Clinic			Wednesdays (2-4 p.m.) Fridays (2-4 p.m.)
Ansley Social Club.	"	"	"	Wednesdays (2-4 p.m.)
Village Hall, Dordon.	"	"	"	Alternate Thursdays (9-12a .m.)
Church Hall, Hurley	"	"	"	Alternate Mondays (2-4 p.m.)
Memorial Hall, Kingsbury.	"	"	"	Alternate Tuesdays (2-4 p.m.)
W.I.Premises, Newton Regis.	"	"	"	Alternate Wednesdays (2-4 p.m.)
The Clinic, Polesworth.	"	"	"	Tuesdays (2-4 p.m.) Fridays (10-12 a.m.)
Liberal Club, Baddesley Ensor.	"	"	"	Alternate Thursdays (2-4 p.m.)
Long Street, Atherstone.	Mothercraft Classes			*Friday mornings
Ansley Social Club.	"	"	"	*Wednesday mornings
Kingsbury Youth Club.	"	"	"	*Tuesday mornings
Polesworth Clinic.	"	"	"	*Tuesday mornings
Long Street, Atherstone.	Speech Therapy			*Monday afternoons
"	Ophthalmic Clinic			*Friday afternoons
"	Orthopaedic Exercises			*Tuesday afternoons

* By Appointment.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Atherstone.

October, 1968.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Atherstone Rural District Council.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,


I have pleasure in submitting to you my 25th Annual Report.

The subject sections into which it is divided are explanatory enough to make introductory comment unnecessary. However, covering the longer term of my 25-years in office, the reader will find appended to this Report, "A Brief History of the Post-War Public Health Department of Atherstone Rural District Council," which I wrote at the end of December last, for the information of Members and others interested.

I would thank the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, (Mr.Councillor Ernest Bond, J.P.), and the Members of the Committee, for the consideration and support which they have given me.

Mr.R.Margoschis (Deputy) and Additional Public Health Inspectors, Mr.P.Hibbert and Mr.M.Blackshaw, have, together with the Clerical Assistant, done unfailing and good work, which I have greatly appreciated.

Commending this Report to your notice.



Chief Public Health Inspector

HOUSING

During the year "Time and Place" notices were served in respect of 10 individual unfit houses. These resulted in 9 Demolition Orders and one being made under Sections 16 etc. of the Housing Act, 1957. An Undertaking was accepted not to re-let a small cottage in Baddesley Ensor, but to demolish when vacated by the aged tenant.

The following Table shows the Clearance Areas which were declared in 1967.

Name of Area	No. of Houses	No. of Occupiers
Kingsbury (No.1) C.A.	8	21
Kingsbury (No.2) C.A.	2	3
Kingsbury (No.3) C.A.	4	12
Baddesley Ensor Village (No.7) C.A.	6	17
Dordon Village (No.2) C.A.	17	45
Baddesley Ensor, Black Swan Yard C.A.	19	32
Totals	56	130

The Table on the following page is made up from four Quarterly Returns which were sent to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1966

A. <u>HOUSES DEMOLISHED</u>		Houses Demol- ished	Displaced during year	
In Clearance Areas.			Persons	Families
1. Houses unfit for human habitation		64	140	56
2. Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.		-	-	-
3. Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957.		-	-	-
Not in Clearance Areas.				
4. As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sect.17 (1) H.A.1957.		7	24	9
5. Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health.		1	4	1
6. Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under Local Acts.		-	-	-
7. Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders.		-	-	-
B. <u>UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED</u>		Number		
8. Under Secs. 16(4), 17(1) & 35(1) Housing Act, 1957.		1	1	1
9. Under Secs. 17(3) & 26 Housing Act, 1957.		-	-	-
10. Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957.		-	-	-
C. <u>UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED</u>			By Owner	By L.A.
11. After informal action by Local Authority.			101	-
12. After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts.			36	-
(b) Sections 9 & 16 Housing Act, 1957.			1	1
13. Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957.			-	-
D. <u>UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE</u>			Number of Hses.	Number of separate dwellings in col.(1) (2)
Position at end of year			(1)	(2)
14. Retained for temporary accommodation,				
(a) under Section 48.			-	-
(b) under Section 17(2).			-	-
(c) under Section 46.			-	-
15. Licensed for temporary occupation under Sec. 34 or 53.			-	-
E. <u>PURCHASE OF HOUSING BY AGREEMENT</u>			Number of Hses. (1)	Number of Occupants (2)
16. Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the year.			-	-

DISPLACEMENT REGISTER

For families re-housed from condemned dwellings, a Displacement Register has been kept since November, 1956. This shows the numbers of families re-housed :-

1956 - 31; 1957 - 179; 1958 - 24; 1959 - 8; 1960 - 76;
1961 - 22; 1962 - 102; 1963 - 43; 1964 - 40; 1965 - 49;
1966 - 46; 1967 - 66. Total 686.

At the 31st March, 1968, there were 3,474 completed Council-owned houses, bungalows and flats, and a further 305 were under construction. The Council dwellings are in the following Parishes :- Atherstone 966; Ansley 198; Austrey 47; Baddesley Ensor 258; Baxterley 24; Dordon 155; Grendon 40; Hartshill 233; Kingsbury 549; Mancetter 426; Newton Regis 52; Polesworth 492; and Shuttington 34. There are no Council-owned houses in the very rural Parishes of Bentley, Caldecote, Merevale, Oldbury and Seckington.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

The Rent Act, 1957, came into force on the 1st July, 1957. 41 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were made to the end of 1957. Another 41 came in during 1958; 12 in 1959; 6 in 1960; none in 1961; one only in 1962; none in 1963 and 1964; two in 1965; one in 1966 and none at all in 1967.

HOUSE PURCHASE & HOUSING ACT, 1959, 1961 & 1964

In October, 1964, the whole of the work of dealing with Standard Grant Applications was transferred from the Surveyor's Department to the Public Health Department.

The following Table shows the number of applications received for Improvement Grants in the past eight years.

Year	No. of Appli- cations	No. Granted		Refused	With- drawn	No. of Houses Owner- Occupied	No. of Tenanted Houses
		Stan- dard	Discret -ionary				
1960	71	60	8	3	-	66	5
1961	99	95	3	1	-	44	55
1962	112	108	4	-	-	56	56
1963	120	111	8	1	-	65	55
1964	88	86	-	1	1	69	19
1965	125	120	2	1	2	67	58
1966	114	109	2	2	1	63	51
1967	91	86	1	1	4	61	30

The number of dwellings improved during the year was 128, of which 75 had "excess" payments; 54 of the houses were owner-occupied and 74 were tenanted.

In the year £18,786. 9. 3d. was paid in grants, being an average of £146. 15. 2d. per house.

HOUSING ACT, 1964.

DECLARED IMPROVEMENT AREAS

Declaration Date	Name of Area	No. of dwellings in Area	No. of owner-occupied dwellings	No. of tenanted dwellings	No. of dwellings lacking one or more of 'standard amenities'	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Owner/Occupied (6)	Tenanted (7)
12/4/1965	<u>Parish of Dordon(No.1)</u> <u>New Street and parts</u> <u>Watling St., & Long St.</u>	199	134	65	61	60
16/1/1967	<u>Parish of Atherstone</u> <u>Ambien Rd., & Stanley Rd.</u>	55	35	20	20	14
22/5/1967	<u>Parish of Polesworth</u> <u>Grendon Road (No.1)</u> <u>Nethersole Street and</u> <u>Station Street</u>	18 27	10 22	8 5	- 6	8 5
22/5/1967	<u>Parish of Hartshill</u> <u>Chapel End (No.1)</u>	263	213	50	35	41
4/12/1967	<u>Parish of Atherstone</u> <u>Erdington Road, Richmond</u> <u>Road & Bachelors Bench</u>	106	44	62	25	57
Totals		668	458	210	147	185

CARAVAN SITES & CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

At the end of the year we were aware of 60 residential caravans on 16 licensed sites - 10 of 1; 3 of 2; 1 of 5; 1 of 8; and one (Alvecote) of 31 caravans.

Six sites of one caravan each were exempt from the conditions of the Act, being used in conjunction with dwellinghouses and one site of three caravans was in use as wintering quarters by members of the Showmen's Guild.

WATER SUPPLIES

The North East Warwickshire Water Board, which was established in 1960, supplies water in 13 of our 18 Parishes.

The South Staffordshire Water Company is the Statutory Undertaker for the Parishes of Austrey, Newton Regis, Seckington and Shuttington, whilst the Birmingham Corporation supplies the whole of the Parish of Kingsbury.

Water mains are extremely well distributed throughout all the Parishes. Only 20 total dwellings, all isolated, are not on mains supplies. One (subject to a Demolition Order) is in Atherstone Parish; six are in Hartshill Parish; five in Mancetter Parish; three in Bentley Parish; two in Shuttington Parish; one each in Newton Regis and Austrey Parishes and one in Kingsbury Parish. The total population not served with mains water is therefore only 62 persons.

Bacteriological examination reports on 122 samples of mains water supplied by the North East Warwickshire Water Board and this Department to the South Warwickshire Waterworks Laboratory Service and the Public Health Laboratories, Coventry, gave very satisfactory results.

Chemical and bacteriological results on eleven samples of mains water supplied by the South Staffordshire Water Company showed in all cases a pure and wholesome supply. Total hardness varied between 146 and 196 parts per million, of which around one-quarter is generally temporary hardness.

In the year this Department submitted 20 samples of Birmingham Corporation water to the Public Health Laboratories for bacteriological examination. The majority were following a burst water main - several gave suspicious results; there was liason with the Birmingham Corporation Water Department and several repeat samples after disinfection proved satisfactory.

Thirteen samples, including repeat samples, of well waters serving isolated farms and cottages were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for bacteriological examination. Eight samples showed gross pollution. The occupiers were advised to boil the water before use for drinking purposes.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Of the 11,269 houses in the District, about 10,300 drain to public sewers and sewage disposal works. Some 900 properties have cesspools or septic tanks and around 70 discharge waste water direct to ditches.

In the 1966 Report I gave a resumé on Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works throughout the District. Major amendments to this which occurred in 1967 were :-

Dordon Parish - New sewage works completed and started operating on 26th May, 1967. Supplementary Contract for Dunn's Lane Sewerage and Pumping Station started on 9th October, 1967 - completion date in June, 1968.

Kingsbury Parish - The extensions to the Cliff Works were made fully operational in June, 1967, and the Coventry Road Pumping Station was completed in August, 1967.

Polesworth Parish (Warton Ward) - Sewage flow was diverted to the new Warton Sewage Works on 19th July, 1967, and through the new Little Warton Pumping Station on 19th August, 1967.

HOUSE REFUSE & NIGHT-SOIL COLLECTION

The following table shows the vehicles in use for this Service.

No.	Makers	Capacity	Type	Date Commissioned
1.	Shelvoke & Drewry, Ltd.	35 cu.yd.	Pakamatic with compression ram.	March, 1965.
2.	Shelvoke & Drewry, Ltd.	35 cu.yd.	Pakamatic with compression ram.	October, 1964.
3.	Shelvoke & Drewry, Ltd.	20 cu.yd.	Pakamatic with compression ram.	March, 1966.
4.	Shelvoke & Drewry, Ltd.	18 cu.yd.	Fore & Aft Tipper with compression plate.	August, 1962.
5.	Shelvoke & Drewry, Ltd.	18 cu.yd.	Fore & Aft Tipper with compression plate.	December, 1961.
6.	Shelvoke & Drewry, Ltd.,	18 cu.yd.	Fore & Aft Tipper with compression plate.	1962 (Ex Tamworth R.D.C.)
7.	Shelvoke & Drewry, Ltd.	10 cu.yd.	Side-loader.	1956.
8.	Karrier Motors.	400 galls.	Night-soil collection tipping tank.	1956.

Vehicles Nos. 1, 2, 4 & 5, are used throughout the working week. Vehicle No.3 is used each Monday to Thursday inclusive. Vehicle No.7 is used for special collections of large items of household refuse and discards which cannot be carried in or might cause damage to hydraulic hoses in Pakamatic or Fore & Aft Tipping Vehicles, and also as a replacement in emergency or when a break-down occurs. No.8 is used Friday only in each week for the collection of pail closet contents from 191 premises.

The Council does not undertake cesspit emptying in any part of the District. A good service is provided by a Public Cleansing Contractor whose vehicles work in the area on alternate weeks.

No materials whatsoever are salvaged from the refuse collected.

A Dust Bin Hire Scheme has operated since 1949. About 50% of properties have hire bins at 7s. 6d. per annum. 880 (761 in 1966) bins were used in the year for replacements and new installations.

The manual employees work a five day week of 40-hours with the advantage of Superannuation and Sickness Benefit Schemes; two weeks of paid annual holiday with three extra days for ten years of service, and last, but not least, an original Bonus Incentive Scheme which has applied since 1955.

The Table on page 32 shows collection areas; the number of premises in each area from which refuse or night-soil is collected; the number of times all were cleared in 1967 and the number of employees serving each route.

111 special collections of household discards and large items of refuse which could not be accommodated in the compression vehicles were made in the year.

In the 1967-8 fiscal year the cost of the Sickness Benefit Scheme was £719. 9. 2d. Since the Bonus Scheme was adopted 12 years ago, employees have generally been absent only when genuinely ill.

A generally satisfactory service was given throughout the year to all parts of the District.

During the year ten workmen have been dismissed from or voluntarily left the work.

The year closed with an extended four day Christmas holiday and an all surpassing residential and trade refuse output.

I would like to record my appreciation of the unfailing and conscientious efforts of the Charge-hand Driver-Loaders, and of the workmen engaged in this arduous public service.

LITTER BINS

During 1960 the District was equipped with litter bins. There are now 298. The refuse collectors are paid a bonus of 1½d. per litter bin emptied. They also empty the large litter baskets on lay-bys on the trunk roads. Litter bins were emptied 47 times on average throughout the District.

HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL

1. Refuse Tips used in 1967

The Hartshill (Atherstone Road) Refuse Tip which is in a small quarry was used throughout 1967. 2,763 loads of house refuse were dealt with to the end of the year. Final tipping levels were agreed with the owner in February, 1968, and the tip will be completed about October, 1968.

2. Means of Disposal of Refuse

One full-time employee works on the refuse tip with a Bristol "Duplex" bulldozer/overloader and a Bristol "Europa" digger/loader. Refuse disposal is on a mechanically controlled basis. Soil for cover is dug from the site and contractors with excess soil are allowed use of the tip.

A charge of 4s. Od. per load is made at the Tip for receiving and disposing of loads of material other than house refuse.

3. Future Refuse Tips

A dis-used railway cutting at Oldbury was purchased from British Railways in 1967. The Cutting will serve for about three years for refuse disposal for the whole of the District.

Col. 1	Col. 2	Col. 3	Col. 4	Col. 5
Route	No. of Premises on Route	No. of Premises cleared in year	Av. No. of times all Premises cleared in 1967	No. of Refuse Collection Employees (incl. Driver-Loader)
Atherstone, part Grendon, Baddesley Ensor and Merevale.	3,362 (3,303)	150,249 (148,800)	46 (46)	4 (4)
Polesworth, Dordon, part Grendon, Birchmoor & Freasley.	3,135 (3,025)	142,053 (127,552)	45 (44)	4 (4)
Hartshill, Ansley, Oldbury, Ridge Lane and Mancetter.	2,889 (2,827)	131,478 (130,156)	45 (47)	4 (4)
Caldecote, Warton, Austrey, Newton Regis, Shuttlington and Seckington.	1,165 (1,101)	56,097 (53,458)	49 (50)	2 (2) (4 days each week)
Kingsbury, Hurley, Wood End, Baxterley and Bentley.	1,999 (1,926)	98,421 (94,327)	49 (50)	3 (3)
Whole District.	12,570 (12,182)	578,298 (554,293)	47 (46½)	- (-)
Night-Soil.	189 (181)	9,953 (9,715)	52 (52)	2 (2) (1 day each week)

Figures in brackets refer to 1966.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The total number of food premises in the district is 330. They are mainly premises carrying on the retail sale of general provisions, but include the following specialised premises :-

13	Bakehouses
39	Catering Establishments
29	Butchers
13	Fish Fryers
88	Licensed Premises

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, came into operation on 1st January, 1967. During the early part of the year operators of all mobile shops stationed in the district were interviewed and, where necessary, their attention was drawn to infringements of the new Regulations. A special stall equipped with washing facilities and a supply of hot and cold water is now provided on the market area for the use of stallholders, and special easily cleansed stall tops are allocated to food traders. In addition to market stalls, 44 vehicles from which food is sold or delivered were inspected.

Routine inspections of all food premises continued under the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. Infringements dealt with during the year under the two sets of Regulations are set out below.

FOOD PREMISES

Unsatisfactory display, storage or handling of food.	10
Unsatisfactory supply of cold water	2
Unsatisfactory supply of hot water	4
Unsatisfactory facilities for washing	8
Unsatisfactory first aid kit	6
Unsatisfactory closet accommodation	9
Unsatisfactory personal cleanliness	3
Structural defects to walls, floors, ceilings, etc.	12
Unsatisfactory cleanliness of floors	2
Unsatisfactory cleanliness of walls	8
Unsatisfactory cleanliness of ceilings	5
Unsatisfactory condition of utensils, clothing, etc.	5
Unsatisfactory drainage	5
Unsatisfactory ventilation	1
Unsatisfactory natural or artificial lighting	-
Unsatisfactory storage of refuse	3
Improper handling/storage of quick frozen foods	7
Other miscellaneous defects	6

96
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MOBILE SHOPS & MARKET STALLS

No name and address displayed	6
Unsatisfactory washing facilities	7
Unsatisfactory structural condition	4
Unsatisfactory sinks and utensil cleansing equipment	10
Unsatisfactory cleanliness of vehicle/stall	1
Unsatisfactory first aid kit	3
	<hr/>
	31
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Other foodstuffs inspected and condemned in food shops during the year were :-

382 tins of meat, milk, fish, fruit & vegetables
118 packets of various frozen foods
12 lbs. ox tongue and veal
1 Carcase of New Zealand Lamb

MILK SUPPLIES

Since the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1960, came into force in 1961, the Warwickshire County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority, has been responsible for the issuing of Dealers' Licences.

As Local Sanitary Authority we have certain public health responsibilities in connection with milk supplies.

The County Health Inspector informs me that during 1967 11 samples of milk were taken for biological examination from producers in our Area. All gave negative results for tubercle bacilli.

Also 82 samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted to Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests - 3 failed the former test. 49 samples of Sterilised Milk were found to satisfy the Turbidity Test.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Four slaughterhouses were licensed in the year 1967. Two are situated in the central area, one in the southern and one in the western part of the District.

In 1966, Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations were designed to bring about the full inspection of all home killed meat before it leaves a slaughterhouse, by empowering local authorities to fix the times at which slaughtering may take place in any private slaughterhouse.

100% meat inspection has taken place in Atherstone since "slaughtering freedom day" in 1954. Present hours of slaughter enable the bulk of meat inspection to be done in office hours; overtime, for which time in lieu is allowed, has to be worked every Saturday until 1.00 p.m. at slaughterhouse No.1 in the Table below, and there are occasional Saturday hours at No.2. There are also odd hours of evening work in times of exceptional demand at Wholesalers' slaughterhouses.

After due consideration, the Council decided not to specify hours of slaughter for any slaughterhouse within the District, but if future developments call for limitation of hours the Council could then act.

The slaughterhouses are kept in a very clean and satisfactory condition.

Slaughterhouses	Cows	Cattle excl. Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. 1 Central	71 (175)	2,098 (2,000)	71 (52)	7,871 (5,910)	5,315 (4,448)
No. 2 Central	1 (-)	405 (417)	8 (2)	1,455 (1,571)	711 (739)
No. 1 South	-	58 (50)	-	216 (217)	67 (56)
No. 1 West	-	53 (45)	-	97 (67)	1 (-)
Totals	72 (175)	2,614 (2,526)	79 (54)	9,636 (7,787)	6,100 (5,260)

Figures in brackets refer to 1966.

Thirty-three steers and heifers (12 in 1966) were found to carry the larval stage cysts of the tape worm, *taenia saginata* of man. In all cases one cyst only was found in the masseter muscles or in the heart. Searches of other sites of predilection proved negative in all cases.

MEAT INSPECTION

The following Table shows the number of food animals slaughtered and inspected during 1967. Also the numbers of these affected with diseases which necessitated condemnation of carcasses or parts of carcasses and organs and the percentage diseased. The figures in brackets apply to the year 1966.

Details	Cows	Cattle excl. Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (all inspected).	72 (175)	2,614 (2,526)	79 (54)	9,636 (7,787)	6,100 (5,260)
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	1 (2)	- -	- (2)	5 (4)	15 (16)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	37 (83)	1,148 (752)	- (1)	225 (255)	2,045 (1,191)
Percentage affected with diseases other than tuberculosis.	52.77 (48.57)	44.10 (29.73)	- (5.55)	2.38 (3.32)	33.77 (22.94)
<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (1)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	74 (60)
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	1.22 (1.31)
<u>CYSTICERCUS BOVIS</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	- (-)	33 (12)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	- (-)	33 (12)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table shows the percentages of cows and other bovines found to be affected with tuberculosis over the last 14 years.

Year	Cows Percentage Affected	Heifers and Steers Percentage Affected
1954	41.5	19.9
1955	23.8	10.5
1956	28.1	8.9
1957	13.2	6.7
1958	17.8	6.9
1959	2.9	4.0
1960	-	1.2
1961	-	0.01
1962	-	0.04
1963	2.2	0.04
1964	-	0.04
1965	-	-
1966	-	-
1967	-	-

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

The following Table indicates the prevalence of Cysticercus Bovis during the last 14 years.

Years	Average Five Years		
	Bovines Slaughtered and Inspected (Excluding Calves)	Number of Cases Cysticercus Bovis Found	Percentage
1954 - 1958	2,222	3	0.14
1959 - 1963	2,081	7	0.33
1964	2,432	18	0.74
1965	1,976	10	0.51
1966	2,701	12	0.44
1967	2,686	33	1.23

FRESH MEAT, QUANTITY CONDEMNED, 1967				
Detail	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs
<u>DUE TO DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS</u>				
Carcases, parts and organs of Oxen	6	6	1	26
Carcases, parts and organs of Sheep	-	7	3	12
Carcases, parts and organs of Pigs	2	8	2	23
<u>DUE TO TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>				
Carcases, parts and organs of Oxen	-	-	-	-
Carcases, parts and organs of Pigs	-	8	3	3
Total	9	11	3	8

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED MEAT

Condemned meat is taken away by contractor in a locked container labelled "Condemned Meat" and is processed into animal foods or fertilizer.

MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS, 1963

These Regulations came into force on the 1st October, 1963. The Council decided to levy the maximum charges allowed, viz :- 2s. 6d. per horse or bovine other than a calf; 9d. for each calf or pig; 6d. for each sheep, lamb or goat.

The total charges levied on the slaughterhouse owners for the year 1967 amounted to £811. 12. 3d. which was paid into the general rate fund.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-54

Sixteen slaughtermen's licences were issued.

FACTORIES

There were 92 factories on the register at the end of the year.

Whilst this Department's responsibility is limited, inspections were carried out as required and contact maintained with the larger factories.

The few outworkers remaining in the District are employed chiefly by the hat manufacturers.

The table below shows the number of inspections made.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	92	19	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding out-workers' premises).	16	2	-	-
Total	108	21	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Inspections

By the end of January, 1967, all premises registered under the Act had received at least one detailed inspection; the nine premises registered during the year were inspected immediately. Revisits, which in fact are going on all the time, were continued following the completion of the initial inspections in order to clear outstanding defects and infringements, then towards the end of the year a start was made on further general inspections and check on the premises registered. This work resulted in a total of 186 inspections of which 78 were general inspections, covering all aspects of the Act. Some 741 persons are employed in the premises registered (302 males and 439 females). These details are shown in Table I on page 43.

Contraventions

During the year 112 infringements were recorded, of which 25, mainly those resulting from second general inspections, were outstanding at the end of the year. It has been found that generally the persons responsible have dealt promptly with any infringements brought to their notice. A little difficulty has been experienced in obtaining satisfactory fencing to certain meat slicing machines, generally because of their age, and in at least one case the answer has been the replacement of the machine. The nature of the contraventions is indicated in Table II on page 44.

Accidents

Four accidents were reported during the year; an increase of 100% on the previous year. This is not looked upon as significant because of the low number involved and the fact that during visits employers are reminded of their responsibility of reporting certain accidents. Three of the accidents were caused by a common factor - handling goods; the fourth was a scalding due to a kettle being boiled on a gas ring placed on the floor in the middle of a stock room. Each accident was investigated and prompt action was taken in the case of the scalding.

Legal Proceedings

At Atherstone Magistrates Court on 11th April, 1967, Richmonds (Earl Shilton) Limited, were charged by the Council with offences against the Act in respect of 65/67, Long Street, Atherstone, occupied by them on 21st October, 1966.

continued.....

Legal Proceedings, cont'd.

The premises were originally inspected on 22nd November, 1965, and the proceedings arose from the failure of the defendants to satisfy four of the infringements to which their attention had been drawn. The summonses involved :-

1. The defective and dangerous condition of staircase; attempts to repair this were unsatisfactory.
2. The staircase was dirty. The floor and walls of the repair shop and the walls and ceilings of the office were dirty.
3. Defects to floors.
4. Unsatisfactory condition of the closet accommodation.

The defendants entered a plea of guilty on all counts. It was the first case brought before the Atherstone Magistrates under this Act and they wanted it to be a warning to others in the district. The firm was fined £5 on each charge, a total of £20.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

TABLE I

REGISTRATIONS & GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year.	Number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	2	34	12
Retail Shops	4	131	59
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	3	6	3
Catering Establishments open to Public, Canteens	--	24	3
Fuel Storage Depots	--	1	1
Totals	9	196	78

Total number of visits by Inspectors to registered premises under the Act - 186.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

TABLE II

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions Found	
4	Cleanliness	3
5	Overcrowding	-
6	Temperature	5
7	Ventilation	1
8	Lighting	2
9	Sanitary Conveniences	14
10	Washing Facilities	12
11	Supply of Drinking	2
12	Clothing Accommodation	4
13	Sitting Facilities	1
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	-
15	Eating Facilities	-
16	Floors, Passages, Stairs	11
17	Fencing Exposed Parts of Machinery	5
18	Protection of Young Persons from Dangerous Machinery	-
19	Training of Young Persons Working at Dangerous Machinery	-
23	Prohibition of Heavy Work	-
24	First Aid General Provisions	23
-	Other Matters	29
Total		112

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1961

Hydroplane Racing, Bodymoor Heath

The only complaint of nuisance from noise received during the year concerned hydroplane racing on alternate Sunday afternoons.

This sport has been carried on by the Midland Hydroplane Club over the past ten years on a dis-used and water filled gravel pit near to the village of Kingsbury. Until recently all the boats used have been powered by outboard engines silenced in accordance with the Union of International Motorboating Regulations, but a second class of boat, powered by an inboard engine, is now being used and early complaints coincided with their introduction. This class is not controlled by any Regulations.

Investigation of the complaints commenced by taking sound level readings at a number of places around the village. At one point on the corner of a Council housing estate, and 830 yards from the water, sound levels up to 77 dbA, with an average of 68 dbA, were recorded, whilst on a site 725 yards distant levels of 82 dbA, average 73 dbA, were recorded.

Following a report made to the Public Health Committee the Council declared the noise to be a statutory nuisance under the provisions of the Noise Abatement Act of 1961.

The Club was approached on the matter and the initial investigation revealed that the majority of the inboard engines were being raced without any form of silencing. Passing at full throttle 100 ft. from a measuring point these boats were producing noise levels up to 100 dbA.

Following consultations with their officers the Club made extensive experiments in silencing and co-operated with the Department in ascertaining noise levels. The result was agreement on a 'noise rule' which the Club has now included in its regulations for racing with inboard engined boats. This rule requires that such a boat passing at full throttle between buoys set at a distance of 100 feet from a standard sound level meter shall not produce a noise greater than 80 dbA.

By the time this rule was agreed the racing season was coming to an end; the Club has promised that in future every effort will be made to ensure that the rule is complied with.

COLLIERY SPOIL BANKS

The Baddesley Colliery Spoil Bank, which was commenced in 1955, was well-maintained and kept free from nuisance throughout 1967. The layering and consolidation of the spoil has proved successful and the internal heat and fire is not superficially evident.

There are two other coal mines in our District (Birch Coppice and Kingsbury Collieries) which have spoil banks in current use. Both are burning ; one is so situate and the other so 'controlled' that nuisance to residents does not occur.

AIR POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT

Industrial Pollution

In addition to numerous casual observations a total of 31 timed observations were carried out on factory chimneys.

At a local colliery, where serious infringements of the Clean Air Act had been brought to the notice of the National Coal Board, a new boiler plant was installed early in the year and subsequent timed observations proved satisfactory.

Infringements of the Act were brought to the notice of the operator of a dairy in the village of Hurley. The trouble ceased following the replacement of the defective chimney stack by a new and higher one and the use of smokeless fuel in place of bituminous coal.

In Atherstone a firm of hat manufacturers was warned that proceedings would be instituted if serious infringements of the Act continued. Improvements followed a detailed study of the way in which the boiler and mechanical stoker were being operated and subsequent observations were satisfactory.

Measurement

The measurement of air pollution, in collaboration with the Warwickshire Clean Air Council and the Ministry of Technology's laboratory at Warren Springs was continued during the year.

The instruments in regular use are three daily volumetric instruments (two being eight port type), three lead peroxide cylinders and one deposit gauge. The Table 1 following gives results from the deposit gauge and lead peroxide cylinders, whilst figures 1 and 2 on pages 52 and 53 give the results obtained from the daily volumetric instrument at the Council Offices.

TABLE 1

Month	Deposit Gauge Total Deposit in Tons per square mile		Lead Peroxide Cylinder Milligrams SO ₂ Per Day Per 100 sq.cm. Batch A.			
	Ather- stone	County Average	Bentley	Newton Regis	Wood End	County Average
Jan.	9.73	9.89	1.5	0.5	1.6	1.6
Feb.	7.29	12.16	1.6	0.6	1.6	1.4
March.	11.28	11.37	1.1	0.3	1.3	1.1
April.	7.86	9.43	1.3	0.4	1.5	1.3
May.	16.17	17.33	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.8
June.	10.17	11.64	0.8	0.2	-	0.6
July.	7.82	9.71	0.5	0.1	0.6	0.4
August.	6.48	10.77	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.5
Sept.	7.82	15.26	0.9	0.2	0.8	0.6
October.	9.33	12.58	0.8	0.4	1.1	0.8
Nov.	12.00	8.59	1.6	0.5	1.5	1.3
Dec.	7.48	11.37	1.9	0.4	1.9	1.6

Stone Dust - Mancetter Quarries

In April, 1966, three special deposit gauges were set up at Mancetter to investigate the deposit of stone dust from the crushing plant at Mancetter Quarries. The necessary gauges were obtained quickly through the Warwickshire Clean Air Council organisation and the necessary analysis was also arranged and paid for through that body.

The gauges were sited as follows, being as near as possible to the points from which complaint had been received.

No. 1.	Quarry Farm	2,000 feet N.E. of quarry
No. 2.	The Poplars	1,500 feet N.E. of quarry
No. 3.	Oldbury Farm	2,500 feet S.W. of quarry

The results obtained each month over a period of one year are set out in the graph on page 51 and, for purposes of comparison only are set against results obtained from a similar gauge at the Council Offices in Atherstone, which measures deposited matter in the town centre.

continued

Stone Dust - Mancetter Quarries, cont'd.

It will be seen that the gauges numbered 2 and 3, the nearest to and the farthest from the suspect source respectively, run very much on a par with the Atherstone gauge. The average monthly total deposit in tons per square mile was 11.1 and 10.9 for Nos. 1 and 2 respectively, and 10.6 for Atherstone. In addition the analysis revealed the presence of relatively small quantities of stone dust in the deposit.

The results from the No.1 gauge did indicate a heavier deposit, an average of 17.8 tons per square mile, but the actual deposit was not excessive except, possibly, during two months early in the period under review. It should be mentioned here that the Quarry Management took action to improve their dust collection apparatus soon after measurement started.

Analysis of the deposit in the No.1 gauge revealed each month that the majority of the undissolved matter was, in fact, stone dust of a nature similar to that produced at the quarry.

Other than the amount of dust actually thrown into the air, two other factors are directly concerned with the amount of dust deposited at the measuring points.

1. Wind Direction : Being to the north-east of the quarry, Nos. 1 and 2 were in a position to collect dust whenever the prevailing wind was blowing. On the other hand No. 3, being to the south-west, was in a position to collect dust on comparatively few days each year. Nevertheless, the deposit No. 3 was very similar to that at No.2, both in quantity and composition, and the gauges were three quarters of a mile apart.
2. Road Traffic : Gauge No.1, which shows the highest rate of deposit, was sited approximately 15 yards from a road into the quarry. A large number of lorries pass the point daily and dust already deposited on the road is thrown into the air again at each passing. The gauge was only 500 feet from gauge No. 2, but it showed a much higher rate of deposit, and the material deposited contained a much higher proportion of stone dust.

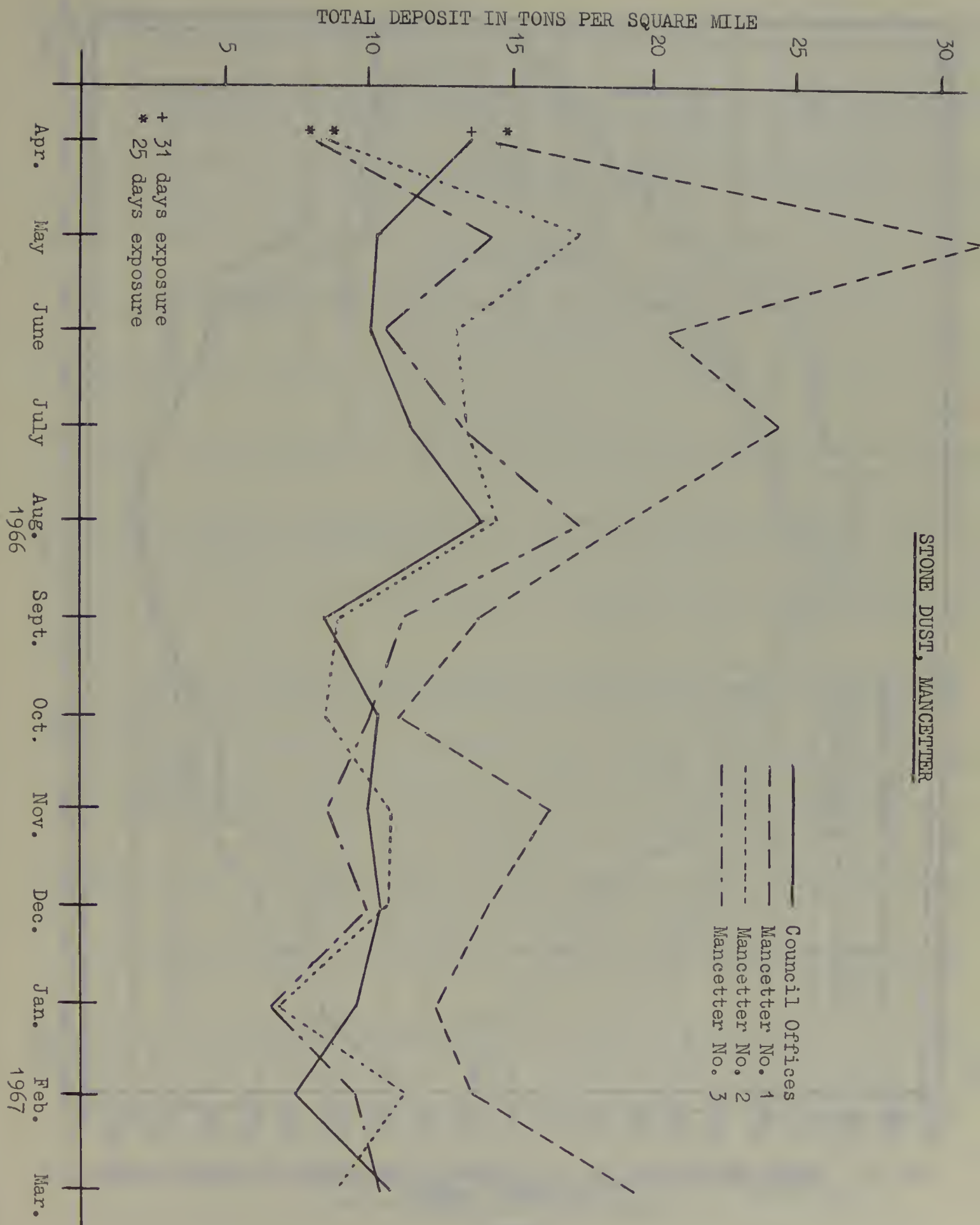
The results have indicated that following improvements to the arresting equipment at about the time the gauges were first put into use there has been little cause for complaint. In fact, no complaints have been received. Dissemination of the dust appears to be mainly due to the passage of traffic along the roadway, a point which is, of course, a feature of any location in close proximity to a road.

continued.....

Stone Dust - Mancetter Quarries, cont'd.

If the results from Mancetter are typical it makes one wonder about the dissemination of diseases, both bacterial and parasitic, around the confined streets of a town during dry weather conditions when all sorts of dried filth can be thrown into the air from the carriageway and pavement by every passing vehicle.

STONE DUST, MANCETTER



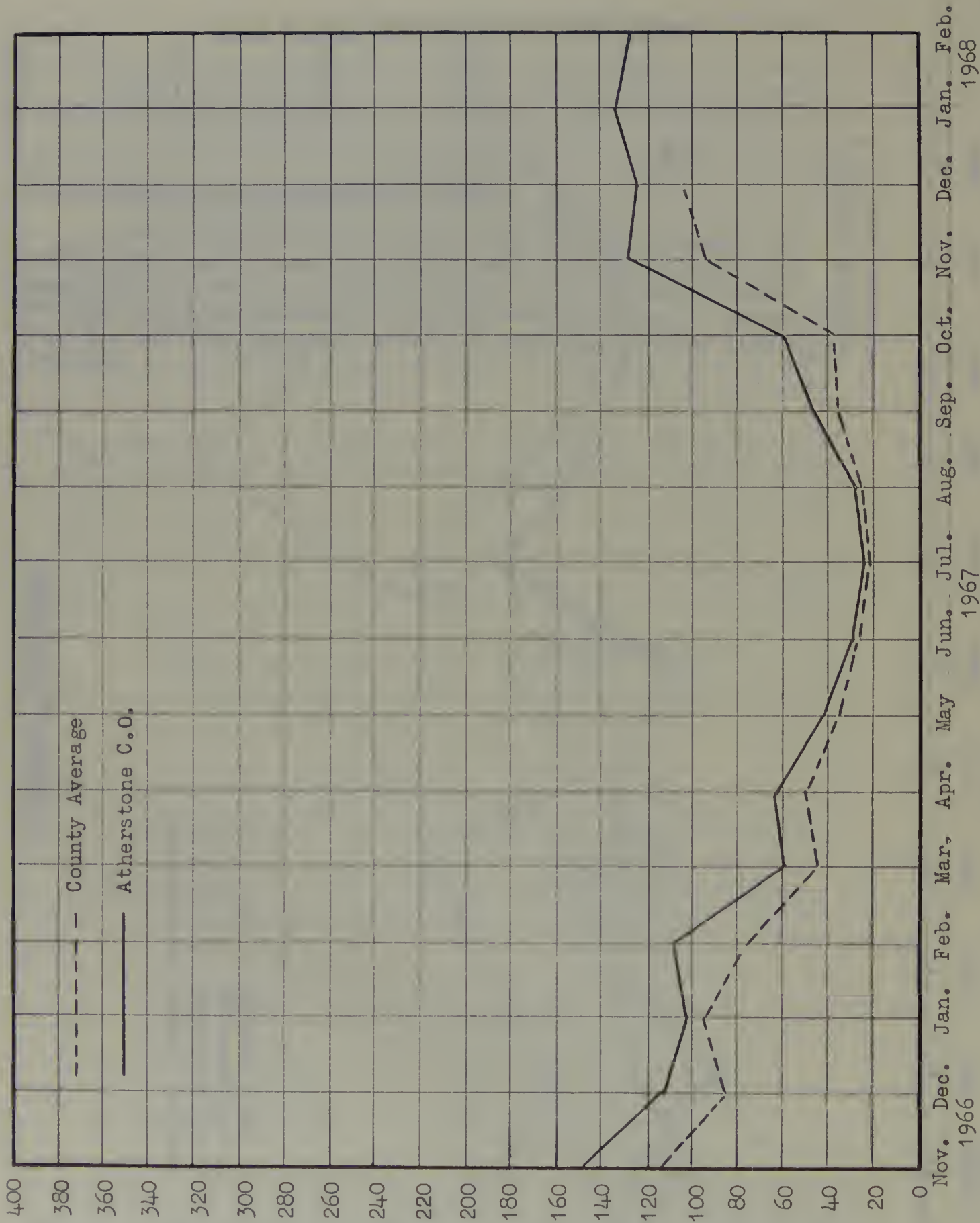


FIG. 1. SMOKE MEASURED BY DAILY VOLUMETRIC INSTRUMENT IN MICROGRAMMES PER CUBIC METRE.

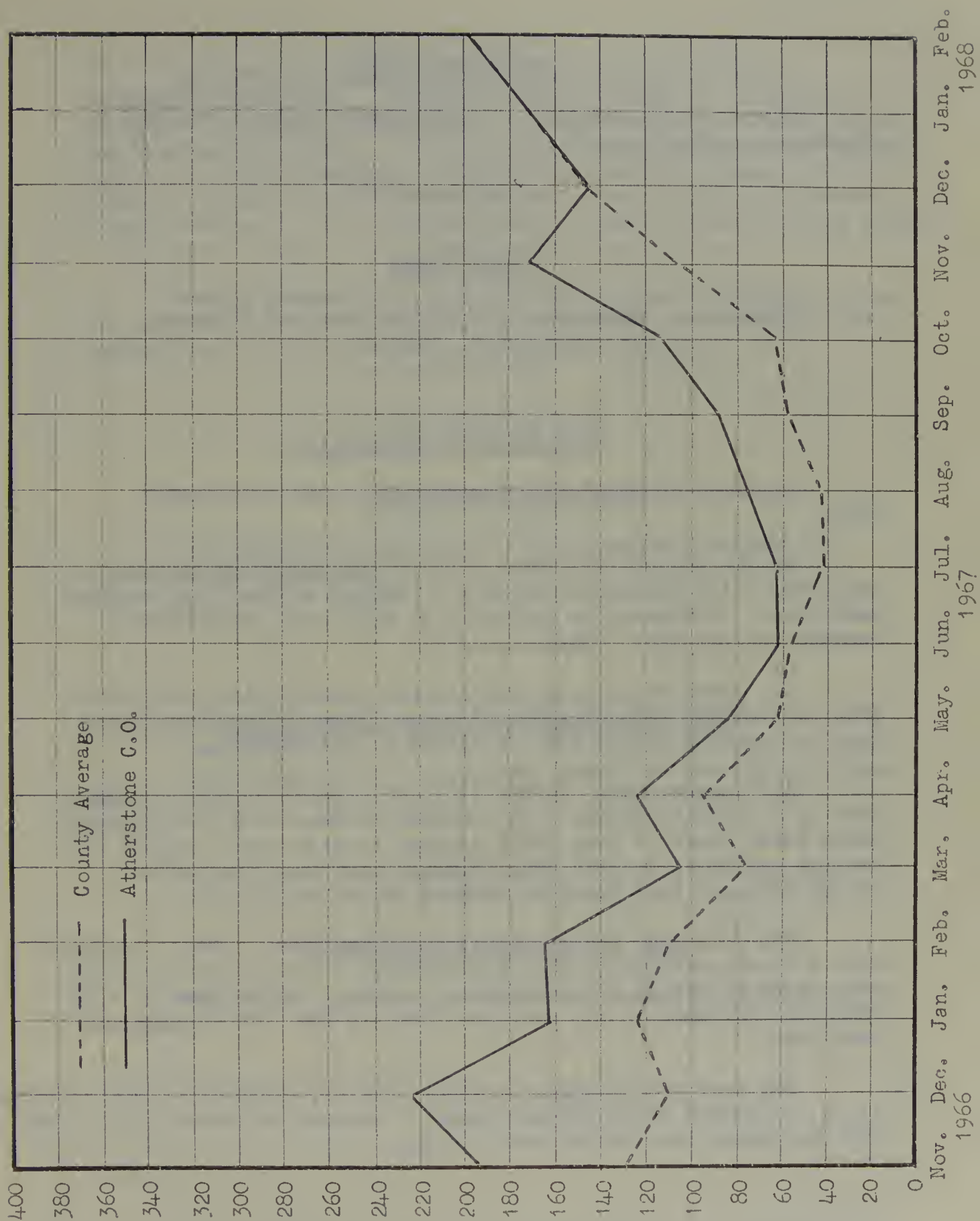


FIG. 2. SULPHUR DIOXIDE MEASURED BY DAILY VOLUMETRIC INSTRUMENT IN MICROGRAMMES PER CUBIC METRE.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no premises in the District where offensive trades are carried on.

=====

CANAL BOATS

Occasional visits are paid to the docs and wharves.

=====

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Contract Rodent Control commenced on the 1st January, 1957.

At the end of 1967, the value of Annual Contracts held was £951. All Contracts are made to expire on the 31st December each year. Contracts to the value of £915 were immediately renewed for the year 1968.

All contract-holding premises are visited once each month after an initial extermination of rats. From 5 to 25 protected Warfarin baiting points are maintained at all premises.

All sewage works, refuse tips and Council Depots are dealt with on a Contract basis. We contract to the North East Warwickshire Water Board to keep their pumping station areas, depots and service reservoir grounds free from infestations, and similarly to the National Coal Board in respect of six collieries.

One full-time Rodent Operative is employed. He is equipped with a 7 cwt. van and tools and materials. His diligent work is encouraged by giving him a pecuniary interest in the form of a 5% bonus on the value of all contracts held at the 14th December in each year.

The cost of the Rodent Control Service, excluding administration, is in the region of £1,500 per annum. Because of income, only about £520 per annum is a direct rate charge.

275 (281 in 1966) complaints of infestations were received in the year. 35 were of mice; being 23 at dwelling-houses, 1 at a shop, 4 at schools, 1 at a factory, 2 at collieries and 4 at public houses. All the reported 240 infestations of rats were of a minor character; 203 were at dwelling-houses, 12 at farms, 7 at factories, 2 at shops, 2 at schools, 3 at allotments, 1 at a cemetery, 1 at a slaughterhouse, 1 at a petrol filling station, 1 at a public house, 1 at a café and 6 at collieries.

Dwelling-houses are treated free of cost. Contract terms are offered for farms and places of business, or exterminations carried out at cost plus 20% establishment charge.

=====

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Two licences are granted. The premises are kept in satisfactory condition.

=====

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Three premises are registered under the provision of this Act.

=====

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

Twenty-one persons are registered under the provisions of the Act.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE POST-WAR PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
OF THE ATHERSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
BY S.B.ACTON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

INTRODUCTORY

Before the 1939 War the Public Health Department at Atherstone was contained in one small office with a staff of one qualified Sanitary Inspector only. There was no clerical assistance; records were hand written and few, as I found on succeeding to this solitary post at the end of March, 1943, but undoubtedly my predecessor had, in the face of obstructions and frustrations during his 36-years service to the Council, effected many improvements to the sanitary circumstances of the area.

In those pre-War days a web of local vested interests ruled the Council; encouragement and staff were not provided for one concerned with the improvement of sanitary services and the betterment of the environmental conditions of families living in privately-owned rented properties, deplorable as many of the conditions then were.

POPULATION AND ACREAGE

In 1943, the population was 21,940 and the acreage 21,945. By mid-1945 the population had fallen to 21,670. It then increased, notably in 1946 to 1948, by 1,730 souls and thereafter steadily to 25,710 in 1964. A largely natural increase of 5,040 persons over 21-years.

In April, 1965, the District was extended to 34,574 acres with a population of 33,450. The expansion was due to the transfer of part of the dissolved Tamworth Rural District. To-day (end of December, 1967) the population has increased to about 35,700.

STAFF

Until 1952 a local medical practitioner held the post of part-time Medical Officer of Health. This arrangement was succeeded by a joint appointment between Nuneaton, Bedworth and Atherstone. In April, 1961, Nuneaton withdrew, and Bedworth with Atherstone formed a separate County Health Area with Dr.E.M.Hughes as Area Medical Officer with offices at Bedworth.

In 1944, to give me assistance, a Clerk-Pupil was appointed. He decided that Teaching was more to his liking and departed for Teacher Training College, as did his successor to the job - two years instead of four or more studying for qualification. The third Clerk-Pupil left to join his father's butchery products-business and the fourth joined the Police Force. Since 1954 the Public Health Department has had a female as Clerk/Shorthand-Typist.

As long ago as the late 1920's the Ministry of Health had intimated that there should be one qualified Sanitary Inspector employed for every 10,000 of population - Atherstone was then positively understaffed. In November, 1946, Mr.R.A.Margoschis, M.A.P.H.I., was appointed as Additional Public Health Inspector and Mr.P.Hibbert, M.A.P.H.I., came as a second Additional in 1955. Through the Tamworth R.D.C. takeover Mr.H.M.Blackshaw, M.A.P.H.I., was appointed as third Additional fully-examination qualified Public Health Inspector. The three still serve, and for administrative purposes each has a District - South, North and West Areas respectively. Mr.Margoschis has also been appointed my Deputy.

A Student Public Health Inspector was appointed in March, 1964, and a second Student was added in October, 1965. (The former qualified in June, 1968. The latter has left the service).

HOUSING

The old part of the town of Atherstone was somewhat unique; development having taken place in two small areas of land on both sides of the ancient main London to Holyhead highway, at a point surrounded by two large estates to the west and north and common lands to the south and east. Congestion which existed in the Courts and Yards of Atherstone gave, in some cases, a population of over 500-persons per acre, and led to a Special Local Government Board Inquiry in 1912.

'Slum' Clearance - At the outbreak of the 1939-War, 279 dwellings had been condemned; they were mainly those which had been the subject of the 1912 Inquiry. No houses were dealt with during the War-years and owing to the housing and subsidies situations 'slum' clearance could not be given impetus in Atherstone District until 1956. 38 dwellings had been condemned in the interim, and to December, 1967, since the War, 784 houses have been dealt with in Clearance Areas and as Individually Unfit. Condemnation of houses has now been virtually completed except in the Ansley Village where houses have to be built to re-house the families to be displaced.

Repair and Improvement - Repair in all its aspects of privately-owned houses has always been a principal duty of the Public Health Inspector, and this work was vigorously pursued until 1960. Over the last 7-years, however, owing to 'slum' clearance, increased numbers of owner-occupiers, new housing development, and one-third of the population living in Council-owned dwellings, this work is directly reduced, but it has been superseded by improvement, and repairs associated therewith, to make dwellings fit in all respect for at least 15-years.

In October, 1964, all Standard Grant Improvement Work was transferred to the Public Health Department from the Engineer and Surveyor's Department. The Housing Act, 1964, had come into force in August of that year. It introduced compulsory improvement and amendments to Standard Grant procedures.

Our first Improvement Area of 199-houses was declared in April, 1965; six further Improvement Areas in other parts of the District have been declared since, and the total number of houses in Improvement Areas is now 802. At a national Conference in September, 1967, it was stated that only 2% (1 in 50) out of all local authorities had taken any Improvement Area action, this may be due in part to the vast amount of inspection and administrative work which these Areas impose.

Maps and Plans - Since the War the Health Department Staff has always surveyed and executed plans and maps for Clearance Areas and Orders and Compulsory Purchase Orders arising therefrom, including supplying the numerous copies for District Valuer and Conveyancing.

Demolitions - Since 1945, the Public Health Department has dealt with the demolition and site clearance of all condemned houses, whether Council or privately-owned.

Rent Restriction Acts - These Acts, 1954 and 1957, were involved and cumbersome and had negligible influence in connections with housing repair. A considerable amount of inspection and administrative time had to be devoted to achieving very little.

Housing Surveys - The first post-War Housing Survey was completed in 1947. It classified all 5,051 houses up to £16 Rateable Value in the District into four categories according to their degree of fitness or unfitness. Reports on Rural Housing Conditions had been called for by the Minister of Health; County Advisory Committees had been set up and I was one of a Sub-Committee of six which laid down the Standard of Fitness for Warwickshire.

The Survey for Atherstone was done on an Individual Inspection and Card Index which I devised and it was found so useful that a revisionary categorisation inspection, survey and individual card indexing of every house in the District (7,430) was undertaken and completed in 1959. It was further extended in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 1965, to include the 2,175 annexed from Tamworth Rural District earlier that year; the Survey inspections also gave the Public Health Inspectors a thorough knowledge of the area we had taken over.

The 1959 Housing Survey Report was voluntarily submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and further copies were requested in order that it could be included in the Ministry's Library. The American Universities of Yale and Harvard, learned of the Report through some channel, and they requested copies which were sent. In an article in "Municipal Engineering" the Report was described as a 'mammoth task'. The individual house card index is kept as near possible up-to-date by frequent revisions. Historical and current information contained is in daily use for answering enquiries and in office routine work. Figures for routine and special reports, such as the one on Warton Ward (Housing requirements) given to the November Meeting of the Public Health Committee, can be immediately extracted and it is even of use in connection with the organisation of the Refuse Collection Service. I am not aware that any other Public Health Department in the Country is so equipped.

Selection of Tenants for Council Houses - For 10-years, until October, 1954, when transferred to the then Rating Officer, the Public Health Department was responsible for all work in the selection of tenants for Council-houses. Reports are now sent to the Housing Officer on cases of special need because of health hazards, e.g. tuberculosis, over-crowding, etc.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

In October, 1946, this service was transferred to the Public Health Department from the Engineer and Surveyor's Department. At that time only the Parish of Polesworth, which then included Dordon, was dealt with by direct labour. A driver and five men with one vehicle served 6,466 population. Of the other Parishes, six were dealt with by Contractors, and five had no refuse collection service whatsoever provided by the Council. By 1950, we had taken over from five contractors and had also extended the direct labour force to the five Parishes which had not had any service at all 3-years earlier. The last Parish - Atherstone, was not taken over until 1956.

In 1951, under the maxim that he who is most productive in his own sphere should receive most money, and becoming progressively dissatisfied with obtainable labour and low output, I devised an entirely original Bonus Incentive Scheme. Placing it before the Council three times and asking for its adoption; calling four Meetings of the reluctant men and explaining the advantages of the Scheme all proved abortive. The Council finally approved a trial for one Collection Route in 1955, whereon the men became known as the "flying dustmen". One year later the Bonus Incentive Scheme applied to the whole of the District, and the number of employees had been reduced from 17 to 11, because of the 250% increase in output which was achieved. The Scheme in its entirety has stood the test of time. It still applies to-day, and the number of employees is now the same for 35³/₄-thousand population as it was for 24¹/₂-thousand population on day-work and day-pay 12-years ago, whilst the service frequency is vastly improved and sick-pay greatly reduced. The organisation is such that a Foreman is not employed - nor is one necessary. The Scheme was given a write-up in "Municipal Engineering" in January, 1957 - details have been supplied to over 200 enquiring Authorities, many of whom have adopted or adapted the Scheme to their own Districts.

Some 295 litter bins are integrated with the Refuse Collection Routes. 23 litter bins on lay-bys are dealt with at an annual charge of £276 to the County Council.

'Trade' refuse is removed from shops; the General Rate fund gaining about £250 annually from this Service and from Contractors using the refuse tip.

Special collections of waste furniture and other large household discards are made free of cost in order to discourage residents from dumping in the surrounding country lanes.

By introducing a Council dust bin hire scheme in 1949, we were in the forefront of Warwickshire authorities so to do, and about 60% of dwellings in our District now have bins supplied by the Council. Having regulation size and pattern bins throughout an area influences the speed of collection and loading operations.

The Civic Amenities Act of 1967 - Has just become law and it places further responsibilities and organisation work on the Public Health Department in connection with the disposal of abandoned vehicles and the collection and disposal of other refuse - much more is involved than is at first obvious and proposals for meeting the Council's liabilities are being prepared.

Refuse Disposal - Until 1960 when a Bristol "Duplex" Caterpillar Bulldozer-Loader was purchased, refuse disposal was inadequately carried out. Previously two men were employed with barrows, shovels and forks, in the hopeless task of 'hygienically' disposing of about 12,000 tons of unruly refuse each year. To-day only one man is employed with two caterpillar tractors and one hydraulic tipping trailer. A high standard of mechanised 'controlled' tipping is practised.

Vehicle Maintenance - Seven Shelvoke & Drewry Refuse Collection Vehicles, one Karrier Night-Soil Vehicle, two Saunders Tractors, one Morris van, one Bedford van, one low loading trailer and one hydraulic tipping trailer form the Health Department's fleet. A Depot Mechanic has never been employed, though the need for one becomes annually more urgent as the numbers and ages of vehicles increase. Shelvoke and Drewry Refuse Vehicles, which are guaranteed for 3-years, have always been purchased, and during these 3-years the Manufacturer's meet replacements and fitting costs.

Cleaning, servicing, brake and other adjustments to Health Department vehicles are carried out alternate Saturday mornings by the respective vehicle drivers. Over the years in the Depot there have been provided stationary and portable compressors with air lines and pressure greasing apparatus; a Crypton Charger/Engine Starter; a 10-ton hydraulic jack and a range of spanners, socket sets and tools.

Large repairs are done by Shelvoke and Drewry, Limited, from their Birmingham Depot, and smaller repairs by a local garage company. The tip employee cleans, services and adjusts the two tractors every Saturday morning. Repairs, other than minor ones are carried out by the Manufacturers from their Worcester works.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Food hygiene began in primitive days when man learned to cook and unknowingly sterilised his food, and much later food hygiene precepts were written into early religious instruction, but true progress came only one hundred years ago when Pasteur pursued his investigations into fermentation and bacteriology. From these beginnings our present day knowledge has developed. However, until after the 1939-45 War, which brought in new methods of mass production of food and mass feeding in restaurant, cafeteria and canteen, the evaluation of food hygiene practises was not truly recognised, nor was it firmly enforced in many respects under Statutes and Regulations as it is and must be to-day when hundreds of people may be placed at risk of illness and even death.

Milk and Dairies - Milk, by its very nature and the loose way in which it was often sold, was open to contamination and was the principal media for the spread of diseases.

From 1944 until 1949, when legislation regionalised administration, a great deal of Public Health Inspectors' effort went into the improvement of the purity of milk supplies, farm hygiene, new dairies and cowsheds design and construction - 54 out of a total of 129 farms in the District were improved in the five years and comparisons of bacteriological examinations at the beginning and end of the period reflected the use of the more hygienic methods of production insisted upon.

The Public Health Department is now left with Statutory powers in respect of registration and the control of milk supplies which may cause disease.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection - During and for a year or so after the War, about 1,600 'cottage' pigs were slaughtered annually in the District, carcasses and organs were given post-mortem inspections on return of cards issued through the Food Control.

Under Government Regulations from 1939 to 1954, when control was discontinued, all fresh meat food animals for sale in Nuneaton, Bedworth and Atherstone Districts were slaughtered at and distributed from Nuneaton Abattoir.

Before the War there had been 33 registered and licences slaughterhouses in the Atherstone District which had been 'temporarily' closed; all the owners wanted to re-licence in 1954, but I opposed the great majority on grounds of unfitness. Seven were finally licenced, one being the Atherstone Central Wholesaling Abattoir (now Council-owned) which was privately built in the first half of 1954. Only four of the seven are now in use.

100% Post-Mortem Inspection - Of all food animals, carcasses and organs for sale, has always been carried out at all the slaughterhouses by Public Health Inspectors, though it often meant working in the late evening and every Saturday and Sunday in the early years, and it now allows freedom for Public Health Staff only on Sundays, except that someone is always on call for the inspection of casualty animals on that day. In 1966, 15,893 food animals were given post-mortem examinations and 7 tons. 9 cwt. 2 qrs. 9 lbs. of diseased fresh meat was condemned. Charges for the meat inspection service are levied on the occupiers of slaughterhouses - in 1966, £729. 14. 9d. was paid into the General Rate Fund.

Both slaughterhouses and slaughtermen are licenced annually on recommendations of the Public Health Department. Action is always taken to ensure hygienic provisions and the prevention of cruelty to animals.

Other Food and Other Food Premises - There are some 350 premises (employing about 1,200 people as food workers and food handlers) which are subject to the provisions of the various Regulations under the Food and Drugs Acts. They include shops, butchery premises, bakehouses, fish fryers, restaurants, canteens, cafes, licenced premises, green-grocers, mobiles, markets, etc., and their regular inspection, staff instruction and correction, necessitates over 500 visits each year, with the consequent making of records and administrative work.

The greatest single contribution to food hygiene since the War has been in the pre-packing of food-stuffs, thereby preventing contamination by further handling. Ice cream, which was manufactured and sold from a number of small premises and vehicles for several years after the War, was a probable and excellent carrier of many alimentary and other infections, and to its manufacture and sale particular instruction and attention and laboratory testing was given. Reflection on pre-War and post-War presentation of staff, cleanliness, shop fittings, lighting and decoration draws the conclusion that considerable improvements have been made.

In July, 1961, the Department ran a 4-page Clean Food Supplement in the "Atherstone News" linked to a campaign throughout food shops. With the specialist hobby sound-recording knowledge of Mr. Margoschis a recording "Horrible Habits" was produced and used throughout Junior and Senior Schools and another Departmental production "The Story of a Germ" for infants and juniors was used by 15 schools and heard by about 1,500 children.

FACTORIES, OFFICES AND SHOPS

Until the end of 1960, the enforcing and certifying of Adequate Means of Escape in Case of Fire in respect of Factories, lay with the Public Health Department, but under the provisions of a Factories Act, it was passed to the Fire Authority - the proper place. Under the Factories Acts and Regulations the Department has responsibility in connection with sanitary matters at the 86-factories which are on the Register.

In 1963, the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act introduced a variety of Health, welfare and safety provisions which have to be administered by Public Health Inspectors for the majority of premises and by H.M. Factories Inspectors in other cases. In September, 1967, it was stated by a Ministry of Labour spokesman, that 75% of local authorities had inspected 50% of the premises registered under the Act. At that time in Atherstone District, all 190 premises registered under the Act had received at least an initial inspection; 300 infringements had been found, most of which are now remedied. The conditions appertaining to health and welfare are very familiar to Public Health Inspectors, but provisions in connection with guarding and fencing dangerous machines and the investigation of accidents have meant an extension of the type of work normally performed.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Certain legal powers were given under the Public Health Act, 1875, which enabled local authorities to deal with the discharge of smoke from factory furnaces - these provisions were repeated in the Public Health Act of 1936. The Clean Air Act of 1956, and Regulations made thereunder introduced new provisions and intensified the work involved in smoke abatement.

Though the Council has not proceeded to the extent of declaring any Smoke Control Areas, much preparatory work has been done in the field, especially in relation to the emission of smoke from factory chimneys and dust emissions.

The Council is a constituent Member of the Warwickshire Clean Air Council; the measurement of air pollution has been carried out daily at several stations in the District for the past 8-years, the results being fed both to the Warwickshire Clean Air Council and to the Ministry of Technology at Warren Spring Laboratory.

All forms of atmospheric pollution - impurities of respiration, impurities of combustion and impurities due to trade processes are of public health significance and when it was known that a traffic by-pass would be provided for Atherstone, a unique opportunity was recognised and taken by the Public Health Department. For three years before the new road was opened, air pollution in Atherstone's Long Street was measured against the general level of pollution in the town and was continued for a year after the traffic in the town had been reduced by the by-pass. This experiment effectively demonstrated the amount of air pollution caused by motor traffic. So far as is known it was the first time such an experiment had been done in this Country; the work came to the notice of the Ministry of Technology and resulted in a paper being presented to the Standing Conference of Co-operating Bodies on Air Pollution in London by Mr. Margoschis. Considerable interest was aroused and one other Council with a traffic by-pass being constructed is known to have undertaken a similar experiment since the Conference.

NOISE ABATEMENT

Noise has always been a nuisance at Common Law, but it was not classified as a public health nuisance before the passing of the Noise Abatement Act, 1961, except in London.

Even in a rural district we are not free from noise troubles; several which have been brought to the notice of the Public Health Committee (Gun Club, Rifle Range, Battery Fans; Engineering Works; Pilot Plant Compressors, etc.) will be recalled by Members. It may perhaps in some respects be paradoxical that our most difficult noise problem has arisen from the pleasurable activity of hydroplane racing at Kingsbury. Noise suppression of the boats is still the subject of experiments which, if not resulting in national measurement standards being set, will at least give a lead to other authorities with similar difficulties.

Noise nuisance occurs by both day and night and a complaint often needs several visits and decibel test readings both by day and night in order to reach the proper conclusion on whether or not action is called for under the Noise Abatement Act.

The opinions of your Public Health Inspectors on this subject have been made known in discussions at Conferences.

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

Until mid-1946 when a Rodent Control Service was introduced for the Urban parts of our District, the Council encouraged rat destruction by paying 6d. a tail, though whether or not the appendages were from rats that had lived in Atherstone District or Timbuctoo could never have been known. Other action to enliven residents into exterminating rodents was by the serving of notices on occupiers of premises known to be infested - and this, to this day, is all that a local authority is basically required in law to do.

During, and for twelve years after the War, the County Agricultural Executive Pest Control Departments dealt with farm and agricultural lands. In 1956 we learned that this service was to be disbanded and this Council concluded on considering a Report, that rat destruction is an important public service, both from the public health and food conservation points of view and that, for it to be effective, it must be carried out systematically over a wide area and it was then decided to introduce a system of Contract Rodent Control. This Scheme has also stood the test of time - Annual Contracts total about £1,000. Domestic premises are treated free of charge and there is relatively only a small cost to the Rates.

In January, 1957, a write-up on the Scheme was published in "Municipal Engineering". Some 200 local authorities in the British Isles and S.Ireland requested details of the Scheme. Forms and letters and details had to be duplicated to meet the demand.

In 1966/67 season we undertook the destruction of feral pigeons - 125 were caught in one cage trap and destroyed. These 'gone wild' pigeons are a manace to the properties on which they roost in the town, and if not annually decimated are sufficiently prolific to be in unmanageable numbers in two or three years.

GENERAL

Other than the subjects individually written about, the Public Health Department is also concerned with other matters which influence public health and general well-being, including :- water supplies, purity and sufficiency; the drainage and sanitation of houses and other buildings; rivers pollution directly and indirectly; infectious diseases, including tuberculosis and food poisoning; abatement of nuisances; offensive trades; moveable dwellings and caravan sites; canal boats; animal boarding establishments; pet shops and sales; ragflock and other filling materials; food and drugs administration to a small degree, and health education in environmental sanitation and food hygiene.

The designation "Public Health Inspector" fails to convey to the public the true nature and wide scope of the responsibilities undertaken, and I hope that I have dispelled from the mind of the reader the restricted meaning usually attached to the title.

Much that I have not written could be said about office administration; office work and routine, and the wide variety of records kept and maintained to cover the scope of the Department's activities and to enable monthly, annual and special reports, and weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual returns to Ministry Departments to be quickly and accurately made.

Retrospect undoubtedly indicates that the last 25-years of public health work in Atherstone have not been in vain. To a considerable degree this has been due to the forward-looking and modernistic approach of successive Chairmen and Members of the Public Health Committees and Councils during those years, and this I have greatly appreciated.

Whilst it is easier to write about that which has passed and that which is with us to-day, it is more difficult to foretell the future, but it is obvious that as the conditions under which we live become progressively more artificial, the promotion of advancingly higher standards of sanitation and environmental hygiene in all aspects will become more essential and more complex.

